MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

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Thursday, October 04, 2018

WEATHER, p. 2

THU: 74°F | 55°F
Mostly Cloudy

FRI: 59°F | 46°F
Mostly Sunny

SAT: 62°F | 56°F
Sunny

Grand opening of MIT.nano today

Bulding largest of its kind in U.S.

By Roopsha Bandopadhyay

MIT.nano, a facility devoted to nanoscale measurement and engineering, will have its grand opening Oct. 4. The building contains roughly 100,000 square feet of laboratory space, making it the largest facility of its kind in the United States.

There are five main floors. Floors one and three contain shared laboratory spaces, both enclosed and open-air. The first floor will also display artwork from both the scientific community and local artists.

Floors two and four are mainly dedicated to large chambers which circulate the air for the laboratory spaces in floors one and three, respectively. Floor five is mainly comprised of undergraduate chemistry teaching laboratory spaces.

The basement houses imaging facilities, including cryo-electron microscopes that are capable of measuring lengths of 0.3 nanometers and cost approximately $5 million each, Tom Gearty, communications director for MIT.nano, said in an interview with *The Tech*.

The laboratory facilities and equipment of the MIT.nano building are available to use for a fee by anyone who has proper training to do so, Gearty said. MIT affiliates will receive a discount.

The building only has offices for staff directly involved in the maintenance of the building itself. No professors from any department are housed there because, as Gearty claimed, MIT.nano belongs to no single department and is represented as a collaboration amongst different ones.

The building cost approximately $400 million and funding came from a variety of internal sources, according to Vladimir Bulović, MIT.nano director, in an interview with *The Tech*.

Fifty-one percent of professors within the School of Science and 67 percent of professors within the School of Engineering cited a need for nanoscale technologies and measurements as part of their work, according to Bulović. The survey

Nano, Page 2

KATYA BEZUGLA

A student browses glass pumpkins at the Great Glass Pumpkin Patch, an annual sale of over 2,000 handblown glass pumpkins, created by artists from the MIT Glass Lab, which took place on Kresge Oval Sept. 29.

MIT endowment totaled $16.4 billion at 2018 fiscal year end

Tuition revenue decreased by 2.1 percent from 2017

By Susanna Chen

The MIT Investment Management Company (MITIMCo) announced Sept. 14 that MIT's endowment totaled $16.4 billion at the conclusion of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, marking a 13.5 percent investment return, according to the 2018 Report of the Treasurer.

Consistent with previous years, a large portion of MIT's monetary returns were accrued through research, with 27 percent from Lincoln Labs and 19 percent from on-campus research. Another 23 percent was earned through investments (such as real estate) made by MITIMCo, while student tuition only made up 10 percent of MIT revenue.

MIT experienced a net decrease of $7.8 million in tuition revenue from undergraduate, graduate, and non-degree programs compared to fiscal year 2017, a 2.1 percent decrease. The report noted that for undergraduates, "financial aid outpaced growth in gross tuition associated with a 3.0 percent tuition rate increase."

According to the MIT Facts website, in the 2016-17 academic year, 57 percent of undergraduate students were awarded need-based financial aid, with the average MIT scholarship being $42,801. Statistics for 2017-18 were not listed.

Over the past decades, MIT has been consistently ranked among the top ten in American universities with the highest endowment. In 2018, MIT ranked sixth, behind Princeton University at fifth place with $24 billion in endowment funds.

City of Cambridge to redesign the traffic lanes along Mass. Avenue

City did not grant MIT's request to postpone construction

By Mark Goldman
STAFF REPORTER

The City of Cambridge held a town hall in 32-155 last Thursday to discuss the new plans to redesign the lanes of Massachusetts Avenue from Sidney Street to Memorial Drive.

The MIT Office of Campus Planning had sent a letter Sept. 10 requesting the postponement of the project to consider other concerns, such as the additional pedestrian crossing near Vassar Street and coordination with other projects like the railroad and the Harvard Bridge renovations. The city did not grant the request.

The final design includes a Boston-bound bus-only lane, protected bike lanes, protected turn lanes, and bicycle traffic signals. The City of Cambridge is also coordinating with Novartis to construct a crosswalk across Mass. Ave. between Landsdowne and Albany Streets.

Modification is expected to start the week of Oct. 22. The city anticipates the project will take approximately a week, with construction only taking place at night.

These changes occur as part of the City's VisionZero initiative to reduce traffic fatalities. As part of the program, the City of Cambridge Police Department identified the section of Mass. Ave. from MIT to Central Square as one of five areas with frequent accidents requiring EMS transport.

Updates are available on the Cambridge South Mass. Ave. webpage.

IN SHORT

There is a **blood drive** from 1–6 p.m. today and tomorrow at La Sala de Puerto Rico on the second floor of the W20.

The deadline to **add a full-term subject** is tomorrow. This is also the deadline to designate subjects as sophomore exploratory or junior-senior P/D/F.

Maker Break, a celebration of making, will take place at Walker Memorial from 5:30–9 p.m. Oct. 9.

Apply to **volunteer at Hacking Arts**, a festival and hackathon about arts, technology, and entrepreneurship, by Saturday at midnight. Visit hackingarts.com.

Interested in **joining** *The Tech*? Stop by for dinner Sunday at 6 p.m. or email *join@tech.mit.edu*.

Send news and tips to *news@tech.mit.edu*.

ASSEL ISMOLDAYEVA—THE TECH

In 10-250, dozens of students gathered Oct. 1 for the lottery for one of the most over-subscribed activities at MIT — glass-blowing. Only twenty of them got a place in the class.

RENAMING A NATIONAL HOLIDAY

Columbus Day celebrates a problematic individual. It should celebrate the people he displaced instead. **OPINION, p. 4**

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

A Chinese student on his time at MIT. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 8**

SALSA TASTING

Which one will win? **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 8**

THE HUMAN CONSPIRACY

Smallfoot provides a humorous commentary on conspiracy, blind faith. **ARTS, p. 7**

MORE THAN A HISTORICAL RECONSTRUCTION

Sergey Malov plays Bach's Cello Suites on a violoncello da spalla. **ARTS, p. 6**

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WEATHER

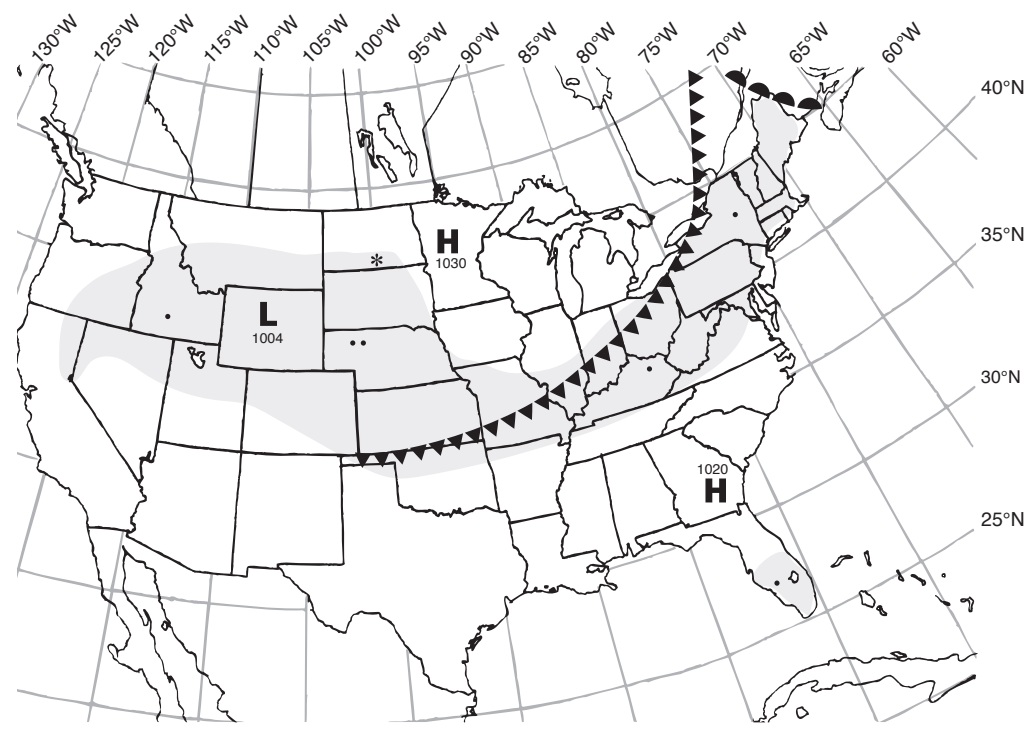
A beautiful fall weekend ahead

By Reagan Zimmerman

A cold front will move in Thursday night, bringing cold temperatures to kick off the long weekend. The chilly weather isn't here to stay, though, as a warm front will follow it and temperatures will return to the 70s ºF by Sunday. It will be a fun weekend to spend exploring the outdoors! Outside the Northeast, fall has arrived in full force in the Northern Great Plains, where the first snows of the season will tease the region on Friday. Further abroad, Hurricane Leslie continues to churn in the mid-Atlantic. Don't worry, though, it's expected to steer away from land as the weekend progresses.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy, with a high around 74°F (23°C). Wind from the south around 10 mph.
Tonight: Slight chance of showers early, otherwise partly cloudy. Low around 55°F (13°C) with winds from the north around 10 mph.
Tomorrow: Mostly sunny with 5-10 mph winds from the northeast. High of 59°F (15°C), low of 46°F (8°C).
Saturday: Sunny with a high of 62°F (17°C). Low around 56°F (13°C).
Sunday: Sunny with a high of 75°F (24°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, October 04, 2018

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols			Other Symbols
			Snow	Rain	
H High Pressure	Trough	Showers	* ▽	• ▽	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Light	*	•	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	Cold Front	Moderate	**	••	Haze
	Stationary Front	Heavy	⁂	∴	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*

MIT.nano building took 999 days to fully construct

Nano, from Page 1

was administered to professors who received tenure within the last 10 years.

The formal plans for this building began roughly seven years ago, Bulović said. Along with Bulović, other MIT faculty and centers such as the Microsystems Technology Laboratories and the Materials Research Laboratory supported this endeavor and provided insight on which microscopy instrumentation to include. Wilson Architects oversaw the design.

Collectively, the building took 999 days to fully construct, according to Bulović. Although the certificate of occupancy for the building was awarded June 6, equipment will continue to be moved in and out in the upcoming years.

The building is located in a central part of campus and contains large glass windows, which make it possible to see directly into laboratory spaces inside and reflect the transparent nature of the work. Gearty explained that this design choice is intended to encourage researchers from different departments to interact with one another.

LEON YIM—THE TECH

CSAIL director Daniela Rus introduces Jeff Dean to the crowd present in 32-123 before his talk: "Deep Learning to Solve Challenging Problems" Oct. 1.

NYSSA MILLER

A corridor in Building 12, also known as MIT.nano, which is set to have its grand opening today.

Is there anyone you want to shadow for **24 hours**?

We're looking for writers to follow someone around for one day and write about it!

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JOIN@TECH.MIT.EDU

DID YOUR MIT ESSAYS GET YOU IN?

The Tech is collecting successful application essays (**hint: yours!**).

Email your pieces to *cl@the-tech.mit.edu*!

Do you wish your sport was covered?

Hello, Athletes, look at the sports page, now back to you, now back to the sports page, now back to you. Sadly, your sport isn't there, but if you started writing for *The Tech*, it could be. Look down, back up, where are you? You're on the front page. Anything is possible when you write for *The Tech*.

sports@tech.mit.edu

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE / SUBLEASE IN CAMBRIDGE / SOMERVILLE

500 sf at 545 Concord Ave
655 sf at 545 Concord Ave
904 sf at 545 Concord Ave
1,234 sf at 810 Memorial
1,250 sf at 1 Davis Square
2,550 sf at 186 Alewife Br
579 sf at 1 Davis Square
671 sf at 1 Davis Square
1,094 sf at 810 Memorial Dr
Dr 1,250 sf at 552 Mass Ave
1,310 sf at 545 Concord Ave
14,600+ sf at 810 Memorial

For additional information and pictures, please go two www.ValtiCommercial.com and search for 'verbeke'

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Questions?
Email Alison at hynd@mit.edu

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MISTI MIT-Israel and MIT-MEET (Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow)

INFORMATION SESSION: Tuesday 10/23 5pm in E40-496

MISTI MIT-Israel: Spend your Summer in Israel!
- Fully-funded Internships for UG, G & Recent Alumni
- No language requirement
- Opportunities in all courses
- 100% placement rate in industry, research & start-ups

Come learn about our exciting and fully-funded internship opportunities in Israel through MISTI MIT-Israel! Hear about the application process, requirements, and specific opportunities.

MIT-MEET (Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow)

Make lasting impact by teaching business and entrepreneurship skills to Israeli and Palestinian high school students. Program is one month long, but there's the option to combine with a MISTI MIT-Israel internship!

Addressing Global Climate Change
Ideas to Impact

Join Climate CoLab contest winners at MIT as they present their solutions and engage in panel discussion around the topics of:

Homes and Communities

Social and Policy Changes

Connect and discuss over some appetizers and learn how each of us can contribute to a better future for our planet!

Register here:
https://www.climatecolab.org/page/conferences2018

Thursday, Oct 11
6:00-9:00pm // MIT Lobdell Dining Hall

Climate CoLab

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OPINION OPINION OPINION

Words of power, words of courage

Carving a path to healing and justice: a lesson to be learned from Dr. Christine Blasey Ford

By Donna Hakimian

The ability to express ourselves — to have our deepest, most solid convictions be brought to life by our words — is, in my opinion, one of life's greatest miracles. I stand in awe of this same ability to express our most vulnerable, uncertain, and broken pieces. To transfer and share our pain, joy, hope, and complex longings are gifts. Words are a natural and powerful vehicle for this and, of course, there are just as many other powerful ways that this happens without words.

How we are heard, when we are heard, and what repercussions our voice carries are closely bound to gender, race and class. These lessons come swiftly, often early in our childhoods, and are reinforced over a lifetime. Don't laugh so loud, don't complain so much, and don't ask so many questions. These are just a few of the hundreds of chastisements that we experience over the course of our journeys.

It feels like both an ancient struggle and the most modern of questions. When and how are women given permission to speak? The regulation of women's voices creeps into the public and private sphere, and sadly, in the worst case, we also internalize these messages and start to regulate ourselves.

Playing out before our eyes is a public assessment of multiple women's experiences of sexual harassment. Dr. Christine Blasey Ford stood before the nation, baring her soul and opening up deep wounds. I read somewhere that Dr. Ford showed us that vulnerability is a superpower. She was not just vulnerable: she was courageous and brilliant. She wove in psychology — a field of which she is a professor — during her testimony, and she showed us that speaking our truth is sometimes the most powerful thing we can do.

Dr. Ford also showed us how unimaginably hard it can be to share our trauma. In her written statement, she writes, "For a very long time, I was too afraid and ashamed to tell anyone the details. I did not want to tell my parents that I, at age 15, was in a house without any parents present, drinking beer with boys. I tried to convince myself that because Brett did not rape me, I should be able to move on and just pretend that it had never happened. Over the years, I told very few friends that I had this traumatic experience. I told my husband before we were married that I had experienced a sexual assault."

Later in the same testimony she writes, "Apart from the assault itself, these last couple of weeks have been the hardest of my life. I have had to relive my trauma in front of the entire world, and have seen my life picked apart by people on television, in the media, and in [the Senate] who have never met me or spoken with me."

I recently returned to the 1991 footage of Anita Hill's Senate hearings. The all-white, all-male panel, reified those power dynamics that so many of us know to be real, and that we have seen playing out these past weeks again. Liza Mundy, in a recent Politico piece, writes, "If you don't believe that, ask Anita Hill, whose testimony altered her life's course and exposed her in ways she couldn't have imagined. Yet, that testimony has also stood the test of time. All those years ago, she foretold truths about human behavior that would not be fully acknowledged for a quarter-century."

And now here we are again: the macro and micro playing out, the "why didn't she come forward earlier," and the "how much had she drank," and the "can she be trusted." All that comes, as I stated at the beginning, with speaking our truths. These same questions are sadly all too often asked of survivors.

The statistics and research on this subject, while often ignored, cannot be refuted or denied. A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report writes, "More than two decades of research has shown that sexual violence and intimate partner violence are major public health problems with serious long-term physical and mental health consequences, as well as significant social and public health costs (e.g., Breiding, Black, & Ryan, 2008; Logan & Cole, 2007; Randall, 1990)."

This report documents that, "Nearly one in two women (44.6 percent) and one in five men (22.2 percent) experienced sexual violence victimization other than rape at some point in their lives. This equates to more than 53 million women and more than 25 million men in the United States." Elsewhere they write, "Nearly one in five women and one in 71 men in the U.S. have been raped at some time in their lives."

The power of retelling, a vast and incredible category of inquiry, has been well documented by many as one path to healing. Dr. Judith Herman, a Psychiatrist at Harvard Medical School, has written of this power in her landmark book Trauma and Recovery: "this work of reconstruction actually transforms the traumatic memory, so that it can be integrated into the survivor's life story." Elsewhere in the book, she writes these powerful words, "Testimony has both a private dimension, which is confessional and spiritual, and a public aspect, which is political and judicial."

The thousands of individuals, across gender, racial, and class lines, who have come forward in the era of #MeToo, remind us: while the pain and horror of sexual assault and sexual harassment cannot be undone, the ability to retell powerfully, boldly, and courageously is something that can help take our power back. For many, retelling might not be an option; political, social, or other forces might impede it. In other cases, the trauma and pain might not allow for it to escape just yet. But perhaps, wherever we are, wherever those in our lives are, or wherever those in the public sphere are with the retelling of their unspeakable truths, let us hold those stories with dignity and honor. Let us ensure there is due process, and let us ultimately work to create a society in which sexaul assault is a vestige of the past.

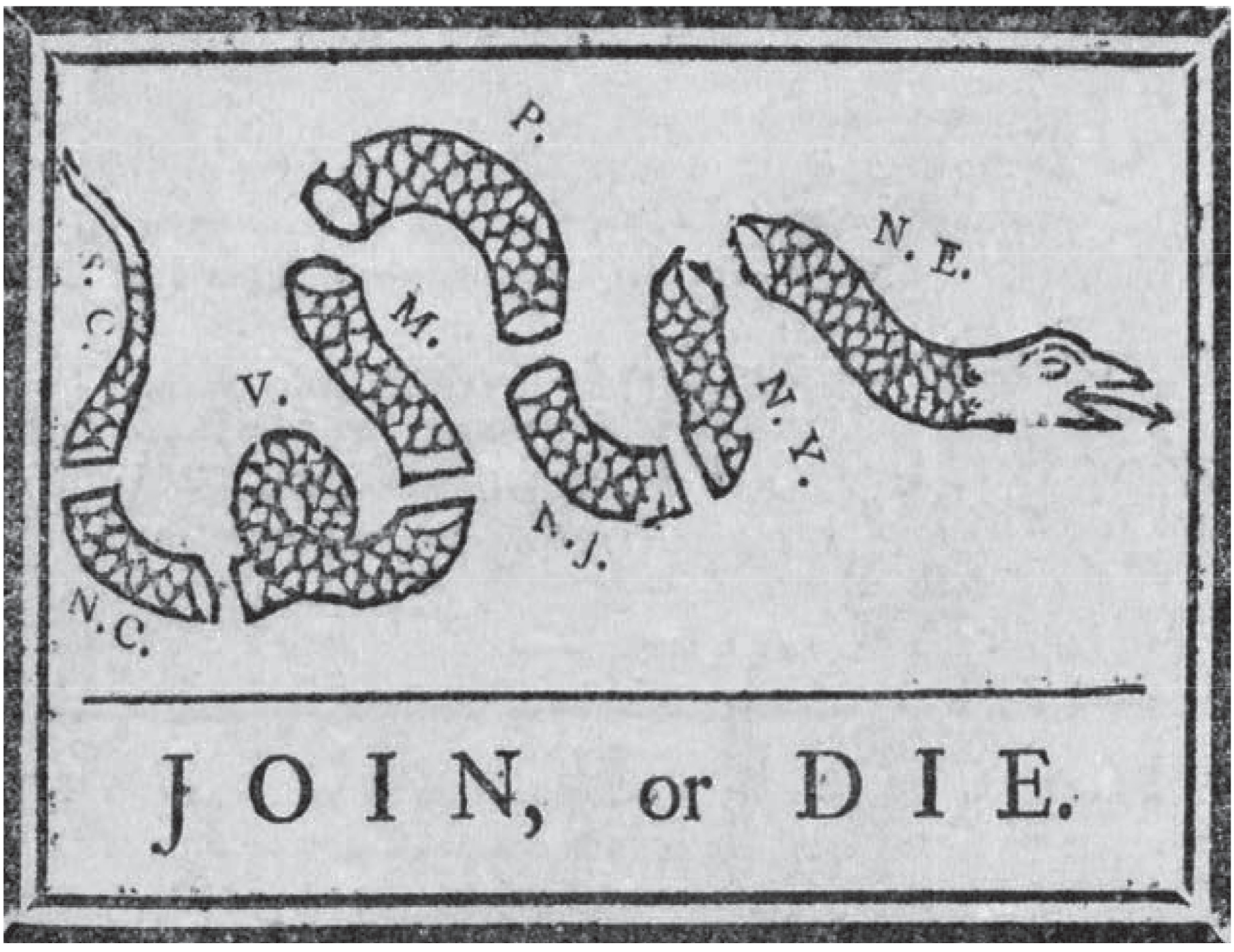
Should you or someone you know need support, please take a look at the MIT Violence Prevention and Response resources or the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

Donna Hakimian is a Harvard Chaplain.

Want to draw graphics that engage, provoke, and speak to the MIT community?

The Tech is looking for editorial cartoonists.

join@tech.mit.edu



ARTS ARTSARTSARTS

INTERVIEW

Health food isn't just kale juice. It's also a juicy burger

Run Fast. Cook Fast. Eat Slow.: A nutritious cookbook stepping beyond calories

Run Fast. Cook Fast. Eat Slow.

By Shalane Flanagan and Elyse Kopecky

Published by Penguin Random House LLC

Released 2018

runfasteatslow.com

By Alana Chandler

Imagine being an Olympic runner. Let's skip all the grueling workouts and numbing ice baths — what's on your plate for dinner? Perhaps there is a crisp, individual celery stick, garnished with one ounce of hummus — not to forget the side of lettuce. Dessert might be a low-fat granola bar, or, on an indulgent night, a whole banana. With slight exaggeration, these are what society deems health foods to be: low sugar, low calories, and undoubtedly low enjoyment.

However, this stereotype is the precise opposite of what is on New York City marathon champion Shalane Flanagan's supper table. From "power bowls" stacked high with brown rice, fried eggs, pulled pork, and pesto drizzle to lemon hazelnut cookies and chocolate peanut butter cups, "bland" and "boring" are the last words to come to mind when describing her meals. A plethora of such nutritious and delicious recipes can be found in *Run Fast. Cook Fast. Eat Slow.* (2018), a cookbook co-written by Flanagan and her former college cross country teammate, Elyse Kopecky.

They created the cookbook to teach people how to eat with indulgent nourishment — health food isn't just kale juice; it's also a juicy burger. "It's about eating the real foods that are going to fill you up and leave you satisfied, as opposed to packaged foods which don't provide any nutrition and leave you hungry," Kopecky vocalized.

Alongside photographs of ethereal egg yolks spilling gold and crisp veggies dripping with miso glaze, fat-rich ingredients burst off the page: olive oil, aged cheese, avocado, butter, dark meat, whole milk yogurt, wild salmon, and nuts. "Despite all the nutrition science out there that debunks the notion that fat is bad, many runners [and society as a whole] still have an ingrained fear of fat," introduces the cookbook. Balance, not restriction, is what the recipes preach, but this is easier said than done.

Kopecky was not always aware of the importance of eating with indulgent nourishment. In seventh grade, she began running competitively, which, coupled with inadequate nutrition, led her to suffer from athletic amenorrhea (absence of menstruation) for 15 years. When she had the chance to work abroad in Switzerland for her marketing job at age 30, she was forced to change her diet from all low-fat, processed products to include more hearty, whole foods. For the first time in her life, she got her period back without having to give up her sport. She realized that her experiences could help a lot of women struggling through the same issues. Finding this calling, Kopecky left marketing to study nutrition at culinary school. After graduating, Kopecky reunited with Flanagan over home-cooked meals and started sharing her nutritional wisdom with Flanagan. It helped Flanagan's progress in running so much that the two decided to write a cookbook together.

Kopecky's main motivation in creating the book was that she "saw that undernourishment was such [a] detriment to runners of all levels, ages and genders due to disordered eating habits that can result in all sorts of health issues like stress fractures and other injuries." In the female running community, undernourishment-caused amenorrhea is sometimes seen as a source of pride of athletic fitness by some who do not realize the harmful long-term effects, such as low bone density and reproductive health. To change such a mindset, the authors stress that instead of thinking of food as just fuel, we can think of food as something to be enjoyed. Kopecky believes that "everything you eat should taste amazing and make you feel satisfied so that you're not snacking on junk or 'hangry' all the time."

The cookbook has the honorable badge of reaching the New York Times best-seller list, but what matters most to the authors is the letters they receive from athletes, parents, and coaches who share stories of how the book has helped their audience overcome eating disorders. "We get some really amazing letters that make us tear up, but we know that our book is making a difference."

Disordered eating is extremely common among high school and college athletes, according to Dr. Jennifer Carlson, a clinical associate professor at Stanford University. "Many athletes are often unaware of just how many calories they require," Carlson says. "Other athletes may adopt a special diet in hopes of improving their performance," breeding fear around food.

Numbers are for counting splits and miles, but not calories. "When people start tracking calories, they start relying on more packaged foods that have those numbers," Kopecky notes. Instead, the two want people to get in tune with their bodies' hunger signals.

When Kopecky cooks for her family, she doesn't worry about the fact that the sweet potato she picked up at the grocery store doesn't have a label with a taunting calorie count. She sits at the table to enjoy her meal for its flavors, listening to her cravings and not what a number is dictating. She cooks from their book on a daily basis, the Turkey Trot meatballs a perfect snack and the Superhero muffins a fan favorite. "My one-year-old loves these beet molasses muffins — great because babies need iron." Flanagan's favorite is the Thai quinoa salad; before winning the NYC marathon, she ate it weekly for its delicious combination of macronutrients.

The book doesn't promise that you'll win one of the most competitive races in the world like Flanagan or have picturesque family dinners every evening like Kopecky. Whether a runner or not, *Run Fast, Cook Fast, Eat Slow* promises to convey an important philosophy: to eat and cook with joy. No low nothings.

Elyse Kopecky is a chef, speaker, nutrition coach, and two-time *New York Times* Bestselling Author. Her cookbooks, *Run Fast. Eat Slow.* and *Run Fast. Cook Fast. Eat Slow.*, co-authored alongside four-time Olympian and NYC Marathon Champion, Shalane Flanagan, are helping thousands of runners overcome harmful diet habits. *Run Fast. Eat Slow.* features Elyse's "indulgent nourishment" food philosophy for long-term health and happiness.

COURTESY OF ALAN WEINTER

Shalane Flanagan (left) and Elyse Kopecky (right) smile with their cookbook, *Run Fast. Cook Fast. Eat Slow*.

MOVIE REVIEW

Spotting human tracks in the snow

Smallfoot brings yeti and human together in surprising fashion

By Ivy Li

ARTS EDITOR

Smallfoot's premise is an amusing twist on the Bigfoot legend: a Bigfoot discovering that the "smallfoot" (i.e., a human) exists. Living in a secluded village governed by the Stonekeeper, this yeti community believes their mountain sits atop woolly mammoths hidden by clouds atop a void (*à la* Discworld). The Stonekeeper has the final word. The stones he wears bear the truth, and all yetis must believe it. This is not a new premise — the dystopian genre plays with censorship often — but this is a children's film. Sitting in the theater, I was curious how this would play out.

One stone notes that the sun is a flying snail across the sky. Migo comes from a line of gong ringers: yetis are slingshot through the sky every dawn to ring the gong (their heads collide with the metal gong every day) and call forth this snail sun. Migo tries to make his father proud and impress the Stonekeeper's daughter Meechee. But during his trial run, Migo is catapulted through the air, misses the gong, and flies out of the village. He comes across a human pilot who crash-landed and is excited by his smallfoot discovery. But before he can bring his yeti friends the proof, all evidence is blown away by the wind. When the Stonekeeper tries to hide the truth, Migo disagrees and is banished.

Migo meets others who agree with him (including the Stonekeeper's daughter Meechee) and takes a journey down into the void below the clouds to the foot of the mountain. We know there isn't nothing; we exist after all. But they don't know tha, and the comedic opportunities are endless.

The human Percy Patterson, a wildlife enthusiast and filmmaker, is losing viewers on his show. Seeking his former glory, he intends to wear a yeti costume to fool his watchers. In a comedic twist, he meets the ticket to glory: a real yeti in the form of Migo, who falls into a human town. Migo interprets Percy's screams as smallfoot singing while Migo's excitement is understood as a beast's roar. But they learn to understand each other, and soon, Migo brings Percy back to the yeti village. Percy meets the yetis and rediscovers his passion for wildlife education again. Migo discovers the Stonekeeper has hidden the truth from the yetis to protect them from humans.

What ensues is predictable: Percy and Migo become the ambassadors of sorts to the two societies. There are misunderstandings — Percy can't survive in the thin atmosphere, Migo lies to his village to prevent them from seeking out humans, Percy must save Migo by tranquilizing him — but the film chooses to believe in the good of humanity. I'm not so sanguine, but I can't fault the film for its uplifting ending. *Smallfoot* has a great faith in humans and yetis, who in spite of their selfish fumblings are merely fearful of the unknown. Migo realizes, quite wisely, that humans draw weapons not because they are monsters, but because they think the yetis are, and vice versa.

The film is stylized as a typical animated children's film. The plot is more or less predictable, and the humor isn't from clever wordplay. But while it's funny that every gong ringer's head is flattened over the years, you must also ask: what do you do when you realize that you sacrificed your head for nothing? That your family history was based on lies? And that all your foundational beliefs are wrong? The sun rises without anyone calling it, after all. The film's motto is to ask questions and look deeper into the world, but it also suggests an introspective examination of ourselves.

As an animated children's film, *Smallfoot* could have gone wrong. But it didn't. Instead, *Smallfoot* was an animated children film whose slapstick Tom-and-Jerry humor and catchy tunes mask its sensitive approach to criticizing censorship, discrimination, and the fear of the unknown. In our era of "fake news" and debates over government censorship, this lighthearted meeting between human and yeti could teach us a lot about ourselves and the adult world we have to answer for.

COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

The four yeti, Meechee (voiced by Zendaya), Gwangi (voiced by LeBron James) Kolka (voiced by Gina Rodriguez), and Fleem (voiced by Ely Henry) discover the human Percy (voiced by James Corden) in the film *Smallfoot*.

★★★★☆

Smallfoot

Written by Karey Kirkpatrick

Based on the book *Yeti Tracks* by Sergio Pablos

Directed by Karey Kirkpatrick and Clare Sera

Starring Channing Tatum, James Corden, Zendaya, LeBron James, Gina Rodriguez, Danny DeVito

Rated PG, Now Playing

ARTS ARTS ARTS

Dip Dive: A hot take on Tostitos salsas

The results of a blind salsa tasting reveal what's important in the tomato dip

ROGERS EPSTEIN

The salsas at LaVerde's are located next to several other possible snacks.

By Rogers Epstein

We've all been there. You're hosting a get-together tonight, so of course you'll be having chips and salsa. You get to Verde's, and all the chips seem similar enough. However, when it's time to choose a salsa, you're a little less prepared. While there are only Tostitos salsas available, you can get very different reactions depending on your choice. What does Restaurant Style mean? What's the difference between Medium and Mild? Exactly how hot is Habanero, and when will it be in stock?

To answer these questions, I ran a blind taste test of these four varieties. Participants ranked the four options and wrote any additional thoughts they had. I joined in as well to contribute my experience as a decade-long salsa lover. While the number of subjects wasn't statistically significant, some striking patterns still appeared in the responses.

Habanero

Of the 12 participants, six ranked the Habanero salsa as the best, all justifying this merely by saying it was the spiciest. Most others ranked it last, saying it was too spicy. Some explained that it had no flavor and only contributed heat. This suggests that even though salsa can come in a plethora of flavors and textures, the spiciness of the dip alone can make or break the eater's experience.

I admit I'm partial to spiciness. While there was still a prominent tomato base, anyone could recognize that the Habanero recipe clearly prioritized spiciness over flavor. Additionally, while the salsa wasn't overly liquid, it was still not chunky enough to be a proper chip topping.

Restaurant Style

The next most top-ranked salsa was Restaurant Style, which was probably the least spicy salsa. In my opinion, it was also the most watery. It was too thin to stay on a chip in any reasonable amount. The water also drowned out most of the garlic and cilantro flavor present in the recipe. However, three people disagreed and ranked this salsa as their favorite. None listed specific reasons why they liked this salsa the best, only cons they found with other salsas.

Mild and Medium

The remaining two salsas are grouped together because most participants could not tell them apart. While Medium is supposed to be spicier, only two people mentioned distinctions between them — neither about heat. Surprisingly, while one of those people said that Medium was chunkier, the other said the opposite. Overall, by two votes, Medium was voted to be better than Mild.

But why were these two ranked so poorly? Two people mentioned that they tasted sour, despite both salsas having about the same ingredients as Restaurant Style, albeit in altered proportions. I also expect that having two similar salsas made people indifferent to either.

Conclusion

If you can only choose one salsa, I recommend Mild. Compared to Medium, I found it to have a little more substance and viscosity, allowing it to feel hearty and complement the texture of the chip. Furthermore, people won't complain that it's too spicy. However, if you're getting more salsa, my fellow heat lovers and I will always appreciate an option with an additional kick.

Bridging the gap between China and the US: comparative perspectives

Reflection about my exchange semester at MIT

By Adrian Shaowen Wu

I clearly remember my mood during my flight from Beijing to Boston this January, as an exchange student at MIT. As a student from Tsinghua, or "Chinese MIT," I was excited about the coming semester in a school with possibly the best education in the world; as a student from China, I was curious and a bit worried about what I would see — especially in a time filled with tension between the world's top two economies. Thanks to all my kind friends, I had a spectacular semester with lots of observations and reflections.

Firstly, the education here was different. Last semester, I went to ESG every week for Christian's Many Interesting Things (MIT) course, and the scenes I witnessed there were just amazing: many times, I saw students making trains, small robots, or other gadgets in the working room and discussing with each other about different topics. The vitality inside the room, the interest that students showed when doing research, and the chill and cozy environment all struck me deeply. In China, we have more courses to learn (for some majors, the graduate courses in MIT are required undergrad courses in Tsinghua), but the trade-off is that if you have more content to learn, you have less time to apply that knowledge. This creates a more "serious" campus atmosphere in Tsinghua, giving rise to the stereotype, "All students work so hard from day to night in China."

Secondly, I was amazed by the focus on social innovation and poverty elimination on campus. Living in iHouse, I saw a significant number of brilliant fellow students with deep insights about international development. Poverty alleviation is always a topic of great concern in China: miraculously, during the past 40 years, the nation lifted over 700 million Chinese people out of poverty. The poverty elimination method is top-down, driven by government policy. So, when I heard the iHousers' thoughts and passions about the grassroots projects, I was impressed. In Tsinghua, we have an "omnipotent" student organization system, led by the university — all student clubs, entrepreneurship groups, and sports teams are part of it. For a student wishing to get resources and start a project, the organization's system is their first place to seek help. This brings about magnificent large-scale events (e.g. every year, the all-campus singing competition will have state-of-the-art stages, facilities and hosts, and it's nearly impossible to get a ticket) in China. So, the abundance of excellent grassroots projects (like Middle Eastern Entrepreneurship for Tomorrow) amazed me. The two ways of event organization have their roots in the characters of the two societies — Chinese society focuses more on solidarity and collectivism, while the U.S. prioritizes individualism and independence. This can also partly explain the different notions of "government" in the two countries — a "big" government which "pools national resources to accomplish large undertakings"集中力量办大事"is more welcome in China.

The third reflection is about the major issue of Sino-U.S. relations. During the past nine months, the trade conflict has put great tension on this issue, accompanied by Trump's crazy and insulting tweets, including calling Chinese students in the U.S. "spies." Admittedly, during the semester I've encountered some stereotypes about China (especially about the political system or the media) which echo U.S. mainstream media coverage (some of which is biased). However, what I noticed more often was that the bilateral relation was not a major concern for most students — rather, the difference of mindset resulting from different cultures is considered not an issue to "solve," but rather a tool to facilitate critical thinking and problem-solving. This notion is vital for the future development of these two countries and deeply impressed me.

Because of graduation requirements, I can only stay in Boston for one semester. But the great friends I made here, the open minds I communicated with, and the creativity and interdisciplinary knowledge I received will stay for a long time. All in all, we are not two countries with fear and hatred towards each other, but global young citizens ready to make the world a better place. In the future, I welcome you to Tsinghua, to dive deep into the quickly-developing China!

Adrian Shaowen Wu is a Class of 2019 student at Tsinghua University studying Linguistics and Economics. He studied Entrepreneurship & Finance at MIT last spring as an exchange student.

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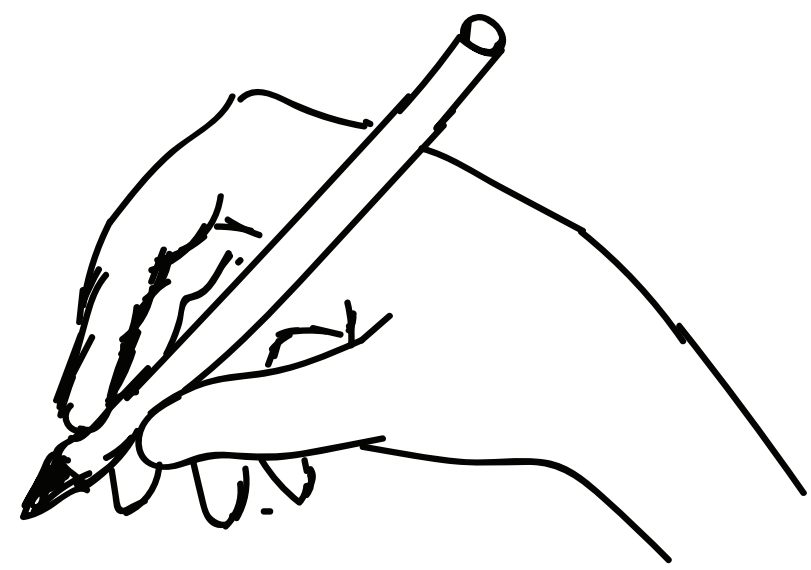


BY THE NUMBERS

Ten things you realize after the first month of the school year

Were the course evaluations a lie?

By Josephine Yu
EDITOR

It's already one month into the semester, which is about the time that everyone begins to realize that *something* might not have gone according to plan, or that perhaps things are better than they seem. Whether it's that you signed up for too many units, overcommitted in your clubs, or somehow have too much time, you probably have something to say about the semester by now. Of course, some revelations are much more common than others:

1. There *isn't* always free food lying around. REX, Orientation, and Career Week were, unfortunately, not super representative. Protip: subscribe to freefood@mit.edu for the occasional golden find.

2. It's getting colder. Whether you're new to the Boston winter or just forgot how bitter it can be in the (really awful) heat of the summer, the colder weather is around the bend. Maybe your windowsill plants are shrivelling (I know mine are), or you find yourself bringing a jacket when you go out. Stay warm, kids.

3. Maybe your clubs are more demanding than you remember or expected. Hopefully, they're also fun! In any case, don't underestimate your leadership roles…

4. Midterms are upon us! You probably have already had one, or you have one next week. Check your calendars.

5. Speaking of calendars, you'll likely find that there's one week (or two or three) that's especially bad. Maybe you have a really hard midterm, an important interview, a club event, or some awful combination of all these and more. As much as you dread that hell week, remember that there is always support. Reach out for help when you need it!

6. It's possible you really enjoy a class that you thought you'd hate (common surprise) or you really hate a class you thought you'd enjoy (also common).

7. There are some friends you haven't seen since the semester began, since you've both been so swamped. Time to schedule lunch!

8. Also, now that the final exam schedule is out, have you booked your holiday travel tickets? It's an easy thing to forget or put off.

9. It's also possible you're in the rare situation of being underwhelmed with lack of work. Maybe your courses aren't as difficult as you expected, or your clubs are chill. In any case, you're lucky, and you should enjoy it! Maybe take the chance to go out and explore Boston!

10. Whether you're enjoying or hating the semester, though, realize this: there's less than three months left! Make what you can of it. It'll pass faster than you think.

The 2018 InCube Competition

In case you were wondering why people were living in a glass cube in front of Stata

By Jordan Harrod

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live in a fishbowl?

The weekend of Sept. 21, Paolo Adajar '21, Eswar Anandapadmanaban '19, Sam Solomon '20, Erica Yuen G, and I ate, slept, and worked in a glass cube on North Court for four days. This was the 2018 InCube Competition, an international hackathon/pitch competition led by ETH Zurich Entrepreneur Club. There were five cubes, each with a different challenge from its respective sponsor.

Our challenge, sponsored by Stryker, was to design the ambulance of the future. Over the four days, we met with paramedics from ProEMS, medical directors in the Boston area, engineers and designers from Stryker, and you! If you walked by the cube while we were there, there was a good chance we would come out to see what you thought of our work.

We got some interesting questions over the four days, some of which I'll answer here:

• **Is this a reality TV show/social experiment?** It's not a reality TV show, but it could definitely be considered a social experiment.

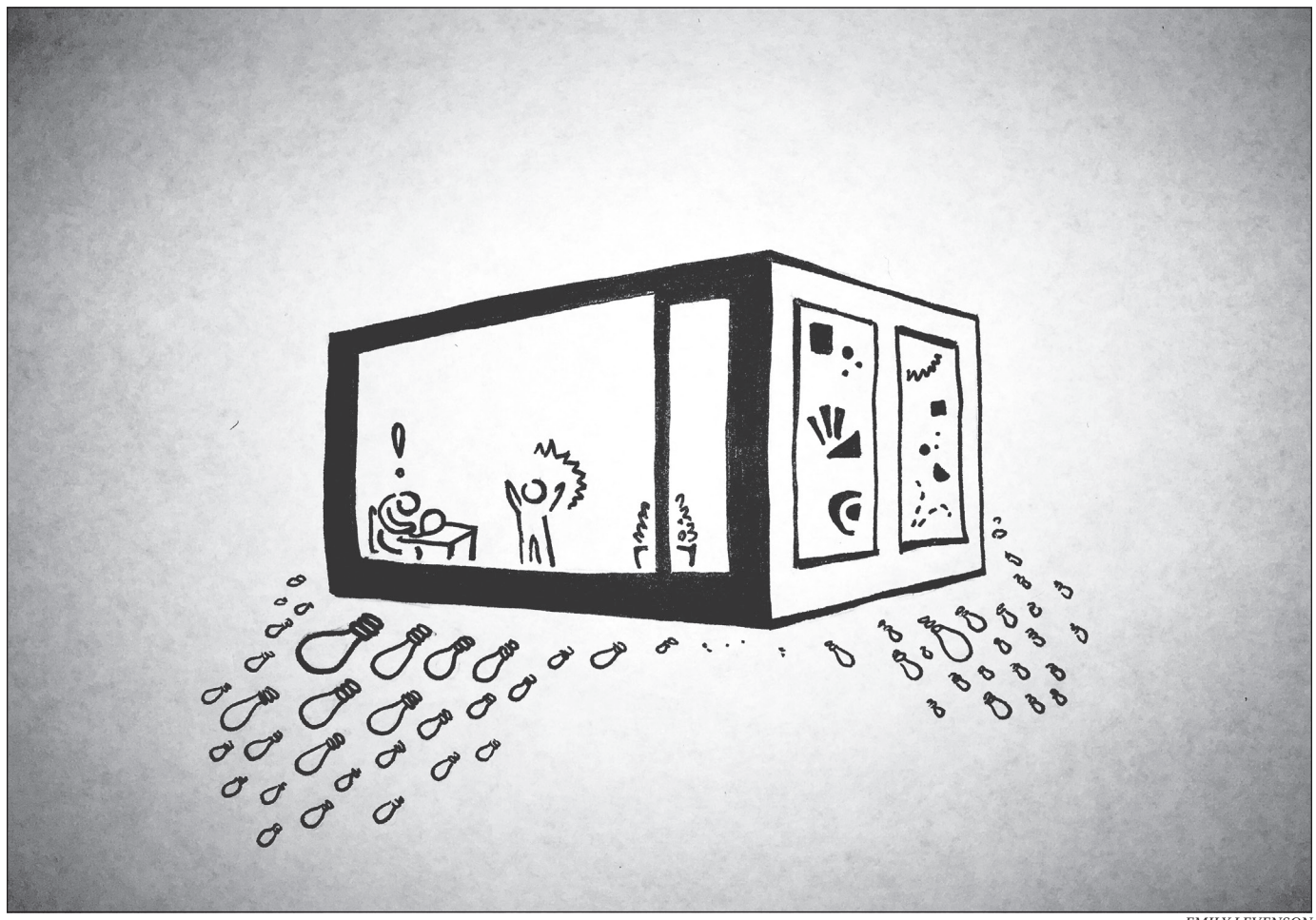
• **Where do you go to the bathroom/shower?** Stata, using our towel cards in the gym to save packing space.

• **Where do you sleep?** In the cube — the couches fold out into queen size beds, and the footrest in the middle folds out into a single bed!

• **Can you really not leave?** We can leave for the bathroom/shower/interviews/taking a break, but we spent the majority of the four days in the cube.

• **What about classes?Aren't you going to be behind on psets?** Let's not talk about that.

Personally, the idea of living in a glass cube to complete an entrepreneurial challenge intrigued me from the first time I saw a flyer for the competition (as was the free trip to Zurich and Crans-Montana, Switzerland). As a PhD student in Medical Engineering, I think the design process should be open and inclusive, with potential solutions refined using input from engineers, clinicians, and patients alike. This cube was the physical manifestation of that ethos, allowing us to show the public what we were working on in real time, receive input and feedback from a variety of stakeholders, and engage with anyone who happened to be walking by.



EMILY LEVENSON

We went from more than 200 ideas on Friday to one idea on Monday morning, all while getting a decent amount of sleep on our designer furniture (credit to BoConcept in Cambridge). One member of our team even went on an ambulance shift with paramedics for several hours, just to get an idea of what unseen design or engineering problems exist in real 911 calls for paramedics. A GoPro in the cube recorded most of our experiences, but I think we can all agree that some of that footage will never see the light of day.

On Monday morning, it was time to pitch our idea! You can see our pitch here, but to summarize, we proposed a startup that integrated vital monitoring systems to make it easier for paramedics to take care of patients in-transit. Our pitch was recorded and sent to Zurich, where the four other teams presented their pitches live. After a Q&A session with the judging panel and a reflection on the experiences of the other teams, we were excited to learn that we'd won second place in the competition!

I'm writing this on Wednesday, and I saw the construction crew begin taking down the cube as I walked to Stata this morning. While I am extremely happy to have returned to my mattress at home, seeing the cube being taken down was bittersweet. In such a short time and small space, Erica, Eswar, Paolo, Sam, and I quickly became entrepreneurs and even more quickly became friends. When the cube comes back to MIT next year (fingers crossed), I look forward to seeing what the next set of participants has in store.

Thanks to Signe Lin Vehusheia, Benoît Jordan, Phillipe Nicollier, Arno Schneuwly, Tom Luly, Gene Keselman, The ETH Entrepreneur Club, MIT Innovation Initiative, Stryker, ProEMS, all of the other participants in Switzerland, and everyone who stopped by to stare into the glass or talk to us!

Jordan Harrod is a first-year PhD student in Medical Engineering and Medical Physics. She can be found at her website *or on Twitter* @jordanbharrod.

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FUNFUNFUNF

Introduction to Real Analysis by Anshula Gandhi

FUNFUNFUNF

SPORTS

MIT Cricket beats UMass Lowell by six wickets in thrilling last ball encounter

MIT inches past UMass to achieve their second away win in as many away games

By Keshav Gupta

In a Sept. 30 game that had its fair share of twists and turns, MIT emerged victorious thanks to an excellent all-round bowling performance and a half-century by Vaikkunth Mugunthan G.

MIT won the toss and chose to bowl first. UMass Lowell's openers started off cautiously against Vishrant Tripathi G's off spin and Nanda Ponnambalam G's quick seamers; however, they settled themselves in a couple of overs. They had just brought up their half-century opening partnership when it was broken by a toe-crushing yorker from Usman Ayyaz '17.

Scoring then stalled for a couple of overs, and that brought another wicket to Murthy Arelekatti G, who trapped the batsman plumb in front. Venkat Reddy and Hash Patel, UMass Lowell's middle order batsmen, then piled up runs and were threatening to post a big score when Ayyaz held on to a fabulous catch at long on to dismiss Reddy.

Wickets then fell at regular intervals thanks to a catch off his own bowling by Akshat Agarwal G, catches by stand-in wicket-keeper Keshav Gupta '21 and Usman Naseer G, and a couple of runouts. A score that could have easily been in excess of 170 was restricted to 154.

In their attempt to scale down the target, MIT faced an early setback owing to some miscommunication between openers Mugunthan and veteran Koustuban Ravi G that led to both the batsmen ending up at the same end and the vet being run out. Agarwal then joined forces with Mugunthan and put up a 110-run partnership, which included quite a few lovely drives, lofts over the infield, and exquisite cuts.

The target was within sight for MIT when Agarwal decided to retire. Mugunthan reached a well deserved half-century before also being run out. This left MIT with 25 runs to get from three overs, which was achieved with a couple of hits to the fence and plenty of quick singles and doubles between the wickets by Gupta, Ayyaz, and Naseer.

MIT hopes to continue their winning ways as they head to the American College Cricket North-East Regional Championship in Queens, New York next weekend!

LILY BAILEY—THE TECH

MIT forward #9 Isaac Perper '20 fights to maintain possession against a Babson defender. The MIT Engineers battled to a 0-0 draw through 2OT against NEWMAC foe Babson Sept. 29.

Solution to Basic

from page 10

6	1	2	9	3	4	7	5	8
3	5	7	8	1	2	6	4	9
8	9	4	7	6	5	2	1	3
5	3	8	6	7	1	4	9	2
4	7	1	3	2	9	5	8	6
2	6	9	4	5	8	3	7	1
7	2	5	1	9	3	8	6	4
9	8	6	2	4	7	1	3	5
1	4	3	5	8	6	9	2	7

Solution to Pumpkin

from page 10

6	4	1	5	3	2
2	6	3	1	5	4
1	5	2	6	4	3
5	3	6	4	2	1
4	2	5	3	1	6
3	1	4	2	6	5

Solution to Crossword

from page 10

M	A	I	L	S	■	P	A	C	T	S	■	M	S	G
E	A	T	I	T	■	O	P	R	A	H	■	A	L	L
S	H	A	K	E	S	P	E	A	R	E	■	G	E	O
A	S	L	E	E	P	■	■	B	I	R	D	I	E	S
■	■	■	S	L	A	S	H	■	F	L	O	C	K	S
A	W	L	■	E	S	T	O	■	F	O	G	■	■	■
T	H	A	T	■	M	A	K	E	S	C	L	E	A	R
A	I	M	A	T	■	F	I	T	■	K	E	L	L	Y
D	R	A	K	E	S	F	E	A	R	■	G	L	E	E
■	■	■	E	R	A	■	S	T	A	R	■	E	S	S
S	Q	U	I	R	M	■	T	S	K	E	D	■	■	■
T	U	R	N	I	P	S	■	■	E	D	I	B	L	E
R	I	G	■	B	R	E	A	K	S	S	T	E	E	R
A	R	E	■	L	A	T	H	E	■	E	S	T	E	R
W	E	D	■	E	S	S	A	Y	■	A	Y	E	R	S

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